

South/Central Sierra Nevada Noxious Weed Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
11/13/2000

Agenda:

1. Public Education brochure
2. Certified Weed Free Feed
3. AB1168
4. SB1740 funds
5. Exotic plant mapping

Attendees: Wain Johnson, Joanna Clines, Denis Griffin, Marty Acree, Carol Hafner, Terry Sandridge, Jenny Gabor (USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Madera County), Toby and Katie Bradshaw, Peggy Moore

Public Education Brochure: The layout and design company Joanna has been in contact with is PR Advertising.sgn (Pam Rank). The draft brochure is complete. The remainder of donations should be submitted to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation by November 30. Pam Rank's work was approved based on samples Joanna brought. Pam will provide two mockups, one foldout and one saddlestitch brochure. Printing may be covered by EQIP grant through Sierra RCD. Joanna will continue to work with the Government Printing Office to publish the brochure.

Joanna brought up the idea of a panel in the Yosemite Sierra Visitor Center in Oakhurst. There was interest on the part of the group. More information is needed.

Certified Weed Free Feed: A certification procedure has been approved by the Agricultural Commissioners. The activities of weed-free certification need a coordinator at the state level. The National Park Service is committing \$10,000, hopefully the Forest Service the same and BLM \$15,000 toward the position. Steve Schoenig has a position description. Agencies will need to purchase special twine (blue and gold?) for marking certified bales once procedures for certifying fields have been implemented. Redwood National Park is already requiring pellets.

More information is available at www.weedfreefeed.com and the endurance riders web site sponsored by Richard Goodwin.

AB1168: Final revisions of our work plan were sent to Jenny Drewitz in Steve Schoenig's office, and she forwarded the it to their contracting office. The work plan was written to reflect funds being administered by Fresno County. Calif. Dept. Forestry and Fire Protection hand crews are donating 10 days to manually control yellow star-thistle on Highway 41 from Oakhurst to O'Neals. They need just two weeks notice. Wain, who is coordinating this group and CalTrans for traffic control, is aiming efforts at 10 sites. They need a contribution of heavy-duty twine for weed whackers. Wain is accepting suggestions for other areas in which these crews can work. Highway 140 in the Merced Canyon (1 day's work) and Mammoth Pools were mentioned. Marty will get a map to Wain. Mariposa County will contribute crew work as well (Kent Woolsey is contact). Mariposa County also is contributing \$20,000 for spraying.

SB1740 Funds: Funding is on a three year cycle. The Ag. Commissioners are meeting this, and the approach remains to be approved. Therefore, the funding allocations currently outlined in "Draft Elements of the Senate Bill 1740 WMA Funding Program" should be considered a draft only. In the draft, we are down for \$75,573 for our three-county area out of \$4,250,000 going to WMA contracts. This is based on the formula of \$37,787 being multiplied by 1, 1.5 or 2 for one,

two or three counties if the WMA is “active and achieving.” There are 28 WMAs in the “active and achieving” category, 2 in the “still developing” category and 8 that are newly developing. Funding in years two and three will depend on several factors, including documented success in year one, in-kind matching support above and beyond year one, new matching dollar support, mapping of weed acreage, completion of project reports and establishment of MOU, strategic plan and GIS.

To receive allocated funding, we will have to submit a complete work plan with all the projects outlined. Projects will be selected by the Steering Committee from among those brought to the table at the December 18 meeting. Also, a strategic plan is needed before funds will be released. We have available the El Dorado County noxious weed management group example and the Fullaweeds County mockup strategic plan example from Steve Schoenig.

****For the December 18 meeting, come with draft project statements you want to propose for AB1740 funds using the AB1168 format attached. The AB1740 Oversight Committee decides on release of funds based on work plans. Once released, AB1740 funds will come as a contract based on the overall work plan. It is unclear how frequently the Oversight Committee meets. Carol Hafner will send out the 1740 work plan format if it comes in before December 18. In the meantime, use the 1168 format.**

Fresno Ag. Commissioners are checking with auditors to see how funds are to be administered for other counties.

Exotic Plant Mapping: Fresno and Madera Counties are interested in mapping yellow star-thistle. They are expecting a GeoExplorer GPS. They have permanent staff to provide in-kind support and can hire seasonals for mapping. There is a GIS in place to store the data. A purchase on the part of the WMA of a GarminIII for approximately \$300 was discussed.

For any mapping projects, specify the datum and coordinate system you are using. You may contact Rosie Yacoub in Steve Schoenig’s office ahead of time to be sure you collect data in a form that the state can use. We want all yellow star-thistle map data to be useable by Rosie so she can pull it into the Sierra-wide map they are creating.